(b) the details of Talukas and Panchayats which do not have this facility; and

(c) by when STD facility will be provided in these Talukas and Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) All 194 Talukas in Tamil Nadu are having exchanges with STD facilities.

Out of total 384 Panchayats having telephone exchanges all are having STD facility except Vembakkam & Javvadu.

(b) and (c) Remaining two Panchayats with telephone exchanges viz Vembakkam and Javvadu are planned to be provided STD facility by March, 2000 subject to availability of resources.

Pensionary benefits to the employees of the instrumentalities of Government

2037. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2214 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th March, 1999 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pensionary benefits have been extended to many an instrumentality of Central Government *e.g.* Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan; and

(b) if so, the reasons and justification, if any, for this blatant discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Pensionary benefits had been extended to a few instrumentalities of the Central Government. Pensionary benefits to the employees of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan were extended *w.e.f.* 2nd April, 1968.

(b) The Government are presently not in favour of extension of pensionary benefits to autonomous organisations receiving grants-in-aid from the Central Government in view of the additional financial implications involved. These employees are, however, covered by the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme. In addition, such organisations can introduce a suitable annuity scheme for their employees in case they so desire.